829 812 The Communist effort to replace the old attitudes toward time, change, and causation with new ones has tremendous implications. It seeks to destroy any tinge of fatalism, any inclination toward resignation, and to foster in the individual a restless search for the goals set by the Party.

C. Work and Leisure

461 In traditional China, leisure was seen as a time for replenishment of bodily and psychic energy; leisure was necessary if one were not to suffer depletion of vital forces.[48] Abundant leisure was also important evidence of membership in the favored social class. In Communist China, work and vigorous activity are given a high value; hard work and ceaseless struggle are characteristic of all the "models" held up before the people in all the propaganda media. The ceaseless activity of top leaders is meant to set a pattern for those who follow them. Leisure as a contemplative bodily replenishment is devaluated, and active sports which develop competitive spirit are being promoted. Leisure as a mark of high status has disappeared.

D. Authority and the Individual

829 The father's relation to his sons was the model for the exercise of authority in traditional China. Ideally, the father was to be firm and aloof, seeing to it rather impersonally that his children were well cared for and given proper

48. Ibid., pp. 37-40.

V. LABOR EMULATION AND PRODUCTION

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461 "Labor emulation" was copied from Soviet Russia and practiced by the Chinese Communists in the early 1940's in the Communist-controlled Shensi-Kansu-Ninghsi Border Region. It spread throughout Mainland China in 1950.

In a speech delivered by Lai Jo-yü, then general secretary and later chairman of All-China Federation of Trade Unions, at the Seventh All-China Congress of Trade Unions, it was stated that "the fundamental method in developing production is to lead the masses to take part in labor emulation, which is an effective way of mobilizing the broad masses to achieve the targets of the state plan."[17] In other words, "labor emulation" is a way of increasing labor productivity without increasing the cost of production.

It was the responsibility of the trade union cadres to initiate a labor emulation drive in a factory or a mine. In doing so, the following steps were taken: (1) workers were organized to discuss the state production plans; (2) the trade union, acting on behalf of the workers, signed collective contracts with the respective administrations; (3) production meetings were organized to discuss production problems; and (4) workers were organized to work out and submit "rationalization proposals"[18] and to popularize "advanced methods of work."[19]

17. People's China, June 1, 1953, p.9.

[See next page for 18 and 19.]

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461 In the East China Region, labor emulation drives were accelerated in 1951 after the Communists had intervened in the Korean war. In the early phases, the Communists urged workers to lengthen their working day. In one case in an iron and steel factory in Kiangsu, the men worked sixteen hours a day.[20] The ten-hour working day became the rule in Shanghai, although the Communist labor law stipulated an eight-hour working day. As a result of the increase of working hours and an acceleration of production, industrial accidents and sick leave became more frequent. In July 1952, one-fourth of the workers of the No. 6 Iron and Steel Works in Shanghai asked for leave because of illness after an intensive "labor emulation" [845] drive.[21] In a cotton textile factory in Tsingtao, in the period January to June, 1952, more than half of the women workers who were pregnant suffered miscarriages.[22]

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18. "Rationalization proposals" are proposals submitted by workers to management to increase production through improved techniques, reduced costs of production, and the more efficient use of manpower. See Practical Dictionary of Economic Terms, pp. 9,016-17.

19. The campaign to popularize "advanced methods of work" corresponds to Stahkanovism in Russia as a means of increasing the efficiency of workers by popularizing the efficient methods used by "model" workers; see ibid., p. 9,057.

20. People's China, December 14, 1952, p. 5. p.3

21. Liberation Daily, Shanghai, 8/12/52,

22. China Weekly, Jan. 19, 1953, pp. 7-8.

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461 During a labor emulation drive, those chosen to be "model" workers were honored and their experience and methods were publicized. In Shanghai, 251 "model" workers were awarded medals for their achievements at a conference held in their honor in May 1954. Local government leaders and some 1,200 outstanding workers were present at the ceremony.[23] Tsingtao is the home of the nationally known "labor heroine", Ho Chien-hsiu, who succeeded in cutting the proportion of cotton wasted on the spindles she tended from 1.5 per cent to 0.25 per cent. Her method has been introduced as standard practice throughout the textile industry; it is reputed to increase annual production by 44,460 bales of yarn.[24] Ho Chien-hsiu was sent as a worker's representative to the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference held in Peking in November 1952.

VI. WAGES AND PURCHASING POWER

465 As a result of the Communist occupation and of continued inflation in East China, the methods of wage payment were in considerable confusion by 1952. The industrial cities of the five provinces of the East China Region had many different systems for paying their workers. Some were paid in terms of "commodity-equivalent" units,[25] and some were paid in terms of

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23. NCNA, June 3, 1954.

24. New China Monthly, Oct. 1951, pp. 160-61.

25. "Commodity-equivalent" units were based on the price of essential commodities and used by Communists as savings deposits.

873 to receive their original pay. The trade union,
466 the Party, and management were authorized to decide which workers qualified for additional technical training. In 1950 the East China Region sent 171 industrial workers of an advanced intellectual level to the Chinese People's University in Peking[51] as part of the Communist plan to create a new intelligentsia among the working class.

461 The Communists say that recreation -- the
466 privilege of the few in the past -- is now an integral part of the workers' lives. After work, workers may go to their own clubs to play chess, card games, or Ping-pong, or in other ways to enjoy their leisure time. Many factories show films or hold dances on weekends. By the end of 1954, some 11,929 clubs had been established in factories, mines, and other enterprises throughout China; Shanghai alone had over 800 workers' clubs. For the first time, workers had the opportunity to take part in athletic activities. At a provincial track meet in Chekiang Province in 1951, workers and peasants took the first four places in a 10,000 meter race.[52]

The validity of the above reports can be questioned. Workers have the facilities for

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51. Workers' Daily, Jan. 6, 1950, p. 1; NCNA, Shanghai, June 2, 1954.

52. Chinese Youth Enjoys a Happy Life, p. 28; NCNA, Shanghai, September 21, 1954.

466 leisure but are not given the opportunity to enjoy them. Raja Hutheesing, traveling in China in 1951, heard factory whistles blow to signal the end of the working day in Nanking, but saw no workers leaving the factory. He was told that the workers had remained to join in a political discussion.[53] In the Communist China regime, even "leisure" comes under the control of the Party, and many workers may spend sixteen hours a day in the factory at work or attending compulsory meetings.

VIII. UNEMPLOYMENT IN SHANGHAI

464 Since the Constitution of Communist China promises the right to work, the Chinese Communists have maintained that unemployment as it exists in Mainland China is a legacy of their "capitalist predecessors," soon to disappear under a socialist society.

The most serious unemployment situation in Communist China exists in Shanghai. After the Communists assumed control in 1949, many factories in Shanghai were closed for lack of raw materials. Some factories have changed their line of business. For example, a Coca Cola factory was remodeled to produce soya bean sauce. During economic reshuffling in Shanghai in 1949 and 1950, unemployed workers (and their dependents) were estimated at 500,000. In early 1950, the Shanghai Federation of Trade Unions established a "Relief Fund Trust Committee" to collect contributions from workers

53. Raja Hutheesing, The Great Peace, Harper, New York, 1953, p. 118.